

APPENDIX B

State Water Plan Section: Drought Management

December 1990

The following selected passages from the final plan section on drought management are included for a review of the issues identified by the steering committee and its recommendations for addressing them.

Issue 1: Drought Monitoring and Early Warning

Recommendations:

- 1) Pursue the calculation of the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for smaller geographical areas.
- 2) Encourage the continued development and revision of basin-specific Surface Water Supply Indices (SWSIs).
- 3) Improve data collection and forecasting by getting the information to those who are vulnerable to drought.

Issue 2: Impact Assessment

Recommendation:

- 1) Coordinate the efficient and timely assessment of impacts related to various water uses. A list of the individuals with the expertise to assess impacts should be maintained.

Issue 3) Coordination of Governmental Actions

Recommendations:

- 1) Replace the current drought plan, by directive of the governor, with a document that incorporates the recommendations of the state water plan.
- 2) Reassign the responsibility for state drought management coordination from the DES to the DAC.

Issue 4: Triggering Mechanism

Recommendations:

- 1) The drought plan should recommend specific actions corresponding to numerical indicators of drought severity.
- 2) Besides the PDI and SWSI, other types of data should be used to indicate the onset and severity of drought.

Issue 5: Assistance programs

Recommendations:

- 1) Update the list of state and federal assistance programs in the state drought plan.

- 2) Provide technical and financial assistance to local drought advisory committees (LDACs) for promoting drought preparedness.
- 3) Encourage producers to apply to the Federal Crop Insurance Program is still operational.

Issue 6: Funding for Drought Management Programs

Recommendations:

- 1) Apply for grant funding for a pilot program in drought management.

Issue 7: Research and Educational Programs

Recommendations:

- 1) Encourage the use of existing educational programs for drought awareness.
- 2) Support ongoing research into ways to improve drought monitoring, assessment, and mitigation.
- 3) Publish and distribute a comprehensive annotated directory of available educational resources about water conservation.
- 4) Make better use of the media for informing the public about drought management options and activities.

Issue 8: Drought Mitigation Strategies

Recommendations:

- 1) Increase the educational emphasis given to forest and range management practices for the minimizing of drought impacts.
- 2) Inventory operating plans of reservoirs to ensure drought contingency plans.
- 3) Develop and implement drought plans for state-owned reservoirs.
- 4) Establish stronger economic and other incentives for private investments in water conservation.
- 5) Consider feasible water storage where it will increase water supply security.
- 6) Consider basin closure by petition of local water users to avoid aggravation of water shortage situations and over-appropriation.
- 7) Encourage voluntary water conservation by domestic, municipal, and industrial users.
- 8) Clarify state law so that water rights holders who conserve water are clearly allowed to sell or lease salvaged water in a manner that does not adversely affect water rights.
- 9) Improve water conveyance efficiencies in agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses.
- 10) Clarify state law to allow voluntary, temporary changes of water rights and contract water exchanges.

- 11) Support the water measurement program in implementing the measurement of streamflow on chronically-dewatered streams and rivers where the program can provide benefits to water users and water resource planning.
- 12) Find ways to expedite the resolution of water rights conflicts and water rights enforcement during drought.
- 13) Develop a model water conservation ordinance for use by municipalities and rural domestic water suppliers and assist in implementation efforts.